

EDITORIAL

Health and getting by wire the result of the bacteriological examination.

This bill of Dr. Smith's extends the powers of the State Board of Health so that it may have certain supervision over the sanitation of public places, such as hotels, boarding houses, sleeping cars, public halls; and so that it may have direct control and supervision over cisterns, drains and wells.

Under this law the work of the State Board of Health would be materially helped, its usefulness extended, and, at the same time, its power restricted, so as to not interfere with the rights, liberties and immunities of citizens.

Dr. Smith's bill should pass the House at an early day; be immediately certified to the Senate and passed by that body so that it may become a law as soon as the Legislative machinery can turn it out.

CALL THIS BILL OFF.

I respectfully call the attention of Senator Trammell to Senate Bill No. 13, introduced by him, now in the Senate, on table subject to call.

I believe that a hint, at this time, will be sufficient to induce Senator Trammell to withdraw this bill, by unanimous consent of the Senate, or if one objects, to leave it on table subject to call until TEN SECONDS AFTER THE GAVEL FALLS on the last day of the Senate session of 1907.

The reason why I say that a hint at this time should be sufficient, is because the Senate has by a MAJORITY OF EIGHT, DECLARED ITSELF FOR DRAINAGE.

This bill will hamper the Trustees in their great work of drainage and reclamation. It will do nobody any good.

An additional reason why I say that a hint at this time should be sufficient is that the House has declared, by resolution adopted, its confidence in the intention of the Trustees to correctly and patriotically administer their trust.

With this indorsement by both branches of the Legislature, the Trustees should not be hampered by a law for which there is no use.

GOOD WHISKY BILL. THIS.

Among all the temperance measures introduced in this Legislature, one by Mr. Faulkner of Taylor, known as House Bill No. 302, now on the Senate Calendar, special order for Monday, appeals to me as the best.

I have said before that legislation against the legal selling of whisky seems to have been ineffective. Legislation against the illegal sale of whisky has in most cases proven unavailing. I say this now, and I have said it before, that it might be a fine idea to experiment a little further with legislation against THE IMPROPER USE of whisky BY THOSE WHO DRINK IT.

This is what Mr. Faulkner's bill does, and I take this opportunity, as the bill comes up Monday, to commend this bill to the Senate for favorable action.

It is not the USE of whisky that makes it objectionable. It is the ABUSE of it, and the man who sells the whisky is not worse in any case, and in most cases IS BETTER than the man who drinks it to excess.

Under this law, if passed, the State would reach the drunkard and through him reach the illegal seller of whisky, and these are the two who do the greatest amount of harm to the cause of temperance.

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WOULD NOT OPEN PRIMARY GATE.

Senate Refuses to Put "First Aid to Helpless" Clause in Primary Law—This Was a Plan to Control Nominations.

Senator Willis had a cute little first aid to the helpless voter that he tried to have passed yesterday, but the Senate in its wisdom choked the bill to death by a vote of 12 for the measure to 19 against.

The vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Senators Adams, Alford, Canova, Crews, Crill, Jackson, Johnson, Neel, Sams, Willis, Withers—12.

Nays—Senators Baker, Beard, Broome, Clark, Cone, Cottrell, Crane, Davis, Girardeau, Henderson, Hudson, Humphries, McCreary, Massey, Trammell, West (1st), West (4th), Zim—18.

The bill was to prescribe a method of assistance, by inspectors and others, to any elector applying to vote in a primary election, who, by reason of blindness, or loss of a hand or hands, or for any reason whatsoever, is unable to prepare his ballot.

Senator Willis said the bill was intended to help those who were unable to read and write, and he spoke long and earnestly in its support.

He told of wealthy citizens of his county who lacked education and were unable, under the present law, to have a voice in the nomination of candidates.

"I don't know of a bill more objectionable than this," exclaimed Senator Beard. "It violates the principles of the Australian ballot system—secrecy—thus destroying the object of the law."

"I am opposed to this bill," said Senator McCreary, because under the general election law such assistance can not be given, and I think the same rule should apply to the primary.

Senator Willis, somewhat surprised at this outburst of opposition, had some more good words to say for his measure, but these brought more against it, as Senator Crane heartily denounced such a change in the primary laws.

"It would open wide the flood-gates of corruption," he said. "Especially so in Hillsborough County, because of the foreigners there who have no political preference and who could be herded together and sold to the highest bidder and assisted to vote by claiming that they were unable to read or write."

"A great many good, true Democrats live in my county who are large taxpayers and also many who are not wealthy, who are not able to read or write, and are barred from the primary election on this account," said Senator Johnson. "They should have a chance to say who will serve as officials, and I hope this bill will pass."

"I think it is the best bill I have seen on this line," declared Senator Crews, who proceeded to rant and roar and plead and preach for the bill.

"It is much better," he continued, "than to have only one go into the booth to help prepare a ballot, as is done now."

Mr. Crane—Does the Senator not know that there is no law permitting assistance?

Mr. Crews—Well, they vote that way anyhow.

He then went on to say that he thought the old-time Democrats should not be debarred from voting in the primary simply because they had been deprived of educational advantages, and he could see nothing but right and justice in the bill.

"If this bill carries, the man with the money will win the election," declared Senator Broome.

Mr. Crews—Does my old gray-haired friend mean to say that these old Confederate soldiers can be bought?

Mr. Broome—Confederate soldiers have nothing to do with this bill.

He explained that no reflection was meant on anybody, but pointed out how votes could be controlled by this method of assistance, and that it would be a menace to the morality of the primary system.

"No Senator will ask to amend the general election law," said Mr. Beard, "but no man should be permitted to vote in a primary election who cannot vote in a general election. If this bill is passed the man with the largest bank account will win."

Senator Humphries regretted that he could not vote for the bill because it would aid people in his district, but conditions were such in Hillsborough and possibly other counties of the State that a law giving aid to voters would be a source of danger to purity of elections.

Senator Crews pleaded for the bill with all the force he could command, but the danger to the primary system was too apparent, and so the majority agreed.

SENATE SELECTS PHILPROFEN FOR CAMP SITE.

Senate bill, providing that Philprofen, near Jacksonville, be selected as a permanent camp site for the Florida State Troops, passed the Senate yesterday.

Mr. Massey, in explaining the bill, said that it was the site selected by the committee, and its purchase would be without cost to the State, as citizens of Jacksonville had pledged \$6,000 for it, and \$8,000 or \$9,000 would be given by the United States Government in consideration of a rifle range.

The site consists of 700 acres, and is valued at \$14,000.

THE HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION.

"Miss Priggly," said the young lawyer, with the high brow and the Henry Clay forelock, "let me ask you a hypothetical question. Suppose that a young man of excellent habits and increasing income—a young man who believed himself fully capable of making a woman happy—were to appear before a young woman who had eyes of rare and radiant luster and hair of the texture and glory of spun gold; whose lips were more perfect than Hogarth's line of beauty; whose cheeks held a tint that put to shame the magnificent pink of the rose petal—a young woman whose culture and charm easily placed her immeasurably above all other women in the world, and he were to ask this young woman if she would—"

"Oh, Mr. Blackstone!" she whispered, sinking into his arms. "Yes!"—Judge.

SENATOR BUCKMAN'S REFORM BILL.

Senator Buckman caused surprise for a few moments yesterday by a bill he introduced and which was railroaded through to third reading in quick time.

When the radical provisions in the bill were read there were demands for the author, but the Senator from the Eighteenth, who has consistently opposed anything that might be even hinted at as being drastic, carefully concealed his identity until after action.

Following is the satirical measure:

"A bill to be entitled an act to protect all and singular the people and property of the State of Florida.

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

"Section 1. All property, real and personal and mixed, and all trades, businesses and occupations and utilities shall be owned, operated and controlled by the people.

"Sec. 2. The people of the State of Florida shall be provided for, supported and maintained by the State.

"Section 3. All property, real, personal and mixed, now owned by persons or corporations, is forfeited to the State.

"Sec. 4. This act shall go into effect immediately."

Senator Massey took a quick breath and moved indefinite postponement, while Senator Adams wanted to know if it was a "purely local bill."

Senator Canova objected to killing the bill, but before he could make a speech in support of Senator Buckman's sole reform effort of the session the "conservative" members had crushed out its life.

WITNESSES BEFORE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

Mr. Knight of Columbia yesterday introduced a bill providing for the manner in which witnesses before Legislative committees shall be summoned and called upon to testify. The bill is designed to meet a constitutional provision which gives Legislative committees the authority to summon witnesses, but says the manner shall be provided by law. The need for the law was probably suggested by the investigation of the doings of the Internal Improvement Trustees, though the necessity in this instance is met by the special act creating the investigating commission.

WILL BRING SOME REVENUE.

Mr. Knight of Citrus yesterday introduced a bill in the House providing for the appointment of a Commission to determine the value of phosphate deposits in the beds of rivers traversing the public domain, and to assess royalties to be paid into the State Treasury for the mining of same. The bill merely seeks to reinstate a law that was left out of the revised statutes. The amount of revenue to be produced from this source is, of course, problematical, depending upon the value of these deposits and the extent to which they are mined.

PROVIDES FOR STATE BANK EXAMINER.

The House bill, providing for examination of State banks and appointment of a State Bank Examiner, at a salary of \$2,000 a year and traveling expenses.

This is a position that costs the State nothing to maintain, as the fees paid by the banks for examination, provide sufficient funds for compensation of examiner.

This bill also prescribes regulations for receivers and conduct for banks going into voluntary liquidation.

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